THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) There is no such thing as synthetic milk. However, sometimes milk may be adulterated by addition of chemical substances. As per information received from states it does not appear to be any rise.

(c) Sale of milk and milk products containing substances not found in milk except as prescribed in the PFA Rules, is already prohibited under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954. All State Governments have been repeatedly requested to take necessary action to keep strict vigil on the quality of milk particularly for presence of chemical substances.

Research on weed Marmijua

1267. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any research on the medical qualities of the weed Marmijua; and

(b) if so, the details of the research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha have informed that they have no such information.

News Item "Drugs Expired before Date"

1268. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Drugs expired before date", which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 24th October, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that Drug testing is done in a regular manner by a Drug Inspector in every State; and

(d) whether Government propose to amend the rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the feedback available from the Drugs Controller, Uttar Pradesh, the Government Analyst's Laboratory in U.P. has the capacity to test 600 samples per annum. During the period 1998-2002, 168 samples of drugs were collected by the Drug Inspectors U.P. at Gautam Budha nagar; 32 were tested by the Govt.Analyst whereas 66 samples have expired and the remaining are pending for analysis.

(c) and (d) Central Government initiated steps during 8th and 9th plan to augment the drugs testing facilities under centrally sponsored scheme and the request of the State Government were accommodated within the approved plan outlay. Out of this fund, the State Govts. can purchase equipments and also utilize funds for construction of buildings where drug testing facilities are inadequate. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 51.8lakhs had been released to the state of Uttar Pradesh during the said period for purchase of sophisticated drug testing laboratory equipment. During the current financial year (2002-03), a Capacity Building Project with the assistance from World bank has been kept for the drugs sector to augment the drugs testing facilities in Central and States. In this project, the proposal of the state of Uttar Pradesh for their drug testing laboratory with a budgetary provision of approximately Rs. 2.44 crores has been included along with other states to strengthen their drugs testing facilities in respect of infrastructure, manpower etc.

PG Diploma Course in Health Care Management

1269. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. for launching a Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Healthcare Management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its duration and course contents;

(c) whether the said diploma would be recognized in various Government hospitals, healthcare centres and drug laboratories; and

(d) by when the course is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Medical Council of India in its Regulations on Post Graduate Medical Education have not prescribed diploma course in healthcare management.